

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 15 and 19 through 21 are pending. In an office action mailed October 17, 2003 (Paper no. 13), claims 1 through 15 and 19 through 21 were indicated to be allowable. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability. Claims 16 through 18 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. All pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and for various other reasons readily apparent, Applicants submit that all of the claims now present are allowable, and withdrawal of the rejections and a Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

If any impediment to the allowance of the claims remains after consideration of this amendment, and such impediment could be alleviated during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (214) 969-4669 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

No additional fee is believed to be due with this response. If any applicable fee or refund has been overlooked, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or credit any refund to the deposit account of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P., No. 01-0657.

Respectfully Submitted,

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